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sponge," whereas the sponge is a many-celled animal, with ciliated epithelium, and producing eggs and spermatc particles. On page 164 the figure of the nervous system of a starfish will scarcely do, as in nature but a single nerve is sent to each ray, and the ganglia are not at all as represented by the artist. In the section on instinct and intelligence, which in the main is excellent, the author remarks of the bee, "We do not find one clever and another stupid." We had supposed that observers had noticed a marked individuality among bees and other social insects. As regards the beaver (see page 184), Mr. Morgan has well shown that it acts by reason as well as instinctively. "The egg" of the *Amœba* is spoken of on page 191, though no rhizopods are known to reproduce by eggs; for this reason the statement on page 188, that "all animals, without exception, arise from eggs," should be modified, as there are whole orders of Protozoa which do not produce eggs. On page 201 it is said that the "grand characteristic" of the vertebrate embryo is the primitive stripe, "which does not exist in the egg of any invertebrate." It is known to exist in the eggs of the leech, earthworm, and allied forms, and with very rare exceptions in the eggs of all insects yet observed. Still this portion of the work is well written, in a clear, lively, and attractive style, and the book is certainly nowhere dull reading.

In some respects we are disposed to find fault with the portion on classification, though on these points naturalists are of many minds. Certainly the many-celled sponges do not belong with the Protozoa, nor are they compound *Amœbæ*. The *Gregarinæ* are not "the simplest animal forms of which we have any knowledge," though the author rejects the *Monera* of Haeckel. The *Polyzoa*, *Brachiopods*, and *Tunicata* are retained among the *Mollusca*, and in fact the classification is not to our mind so advanced in its treatment as other parts of the work. The old division of *Entomostraca* is retained, though *Limulus* represents quite a different division of *Crustacea*. On page 276 the lobster, represented by a time-honored English cut, is called *Astacus marinus*. The *Arachnida* are by the author provided with "antennæ," though they do not exist in nature. Much space is devoted to the vertebrates, as seems necessary in such a book as this, which has many useful features about it adapting it for use in schools. The three hundred and fifty wood-cuts are in almost every case, we should judge, borrowed from other works, and a larger number represent European animals than is suitable in a book designed for use by American youth.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS. — Practical Botany, Structural and Systematic, the latter Portion being an Analytical Key to the Wild Flowering Plants, Trees, Shrubs, Ordinary Herbs, Sedges, and Grasses of the Northern and Middle United States east of the Mississippi. By August Kœhler. Copiously Illustrated. New York: Henry Holt & Co. 1876. 12mo, pp. 400. \$3.00.

The Andes and the Amazon; or, Across the Continent of South America. By James Orton, A. M. Third edition, revised and enlarged, containing Notes of a Second Journey across the Continent from Para to Lima and Lake Titicaca. With

two Maps and numerous Illustrations. New York: Harper & Brothers. 1876. 12mo, pp. 645.

Sexual, Individual, and Geographical Variation in *Leucosticte tephrocotis*. Geographical Variation among North American Mammals, especially in Respect to Size. By J. A. Allen. (Extracted from Bulletin of the Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories, vol. ii., No. 4.) Washington, July 1, 1876. 8vo, pp. 30.

Notes on the Geology of Northeastern New Mexico. By O. St. John. (Extracted from the Bulletin of the Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories, vol. ii., No. 4.) Washington, July 1, 1876. 8vo, pp. 280-308.

Archivos do Museu Nacional do Rio de Janeiro. Vol. i., 1 Trimestre. Rio de Janeiro. 1876. 4to, pp. 30.

The Oaks of the United States. By Dr. G. Engelmann. (From the Transactions of the Academy of Science of St. Louis, vol. iii.) St. Louis, Mo. 1876. 8vo, pp. 20.

Notes on Agave. By Geo. Engelmann, M. D. (From the Transactions of the Academy of Science, of St. Louis, vol. iii.) St. Louis, Mo. 1875. 8vo, pp. 35.

The Forest. Products of Michigan at the Centennial Exposition. By Prof. W. J. Beal. Lansing, Mich. 8vo, pp. 16.

Micro-Photographs in Histology, Normal and Pathological. By Carl Seiler, M. D., in conjunction with J. Gibbons Hunt, M. D., and J. G. Richardson, M. D. Vol. i., Nos. 1, 2. Philadelphia: J. H. Coates & Co. 4to, 8 Plates.

GENERAL NOTES.

BOTANY.¹

SCHÆNOLIRION; APPENDIX. — About the time when my little article on *Schœnolirion*, for our July number, was issued, a valued Californian correspondent, Mrs. R. M. Austin, rediscovered the doubtful species referred to, namely, *S. album* of Durand, and sent me specimens which have just come to hand. Pratten's specimen, the only one before known, consisted merely of the top of a scape, with the raceme. I have not seen it, and it is probably in Durand's herbarium, at the *Jardin des Plantes*, Paris. But Dr. Torrey's remarks leave no doubt as to the identification, and the specimens (now complete, except as to the fruit,) justify his reference of the plant to his genus *Schœnolirion*. Nevertheless it differs somewhat from the Atlantic species in the particulars mentioned by Dr. Torrey, and especially in the texture of the dried perianth, which is scarious, in the manner of *Allium*. Moreover, only its outer divisions answer to the description as to the three "almost confluent nerves," the three inner divisions being strictly one-nerved. Besides, the ovary is short-stipitate. The ovules in this and the original species of Michaux are geminate and ascending, not "horizontal." The diagnosis of this fourth species may accordingly be expressed as follows:—

S. ALBUM Durand. Leaves rather flaccid; flowers very numerous in a virgate raceme: pedicels horizontal, shorter than the bracts or the perianth: the latter bright, white, scarious when dry; the divisions nerveless, except the midrib, which is triple in the three outer, but simple in the inner: filaments subulate, decidedly perigynous: ovary short-stipitate. California, in Nevada County, Mr. Pratten; Plumas County, Mrs. R. M. Austin.

¹ Conducted by PROF. G. L. GOODALE.